Inability of MPSEB to pay its Liabilities

1359. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board has been unable to pay the liabilities of the Rural Electrification Corporation; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The outstanding dues ending March, 1997 has reached to about Rs. 309 crores (un-audited). REC has made several requests to MPEB for making the payment of its dues but so far MPEB has not confirmed its schedule of repayment. Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board have informed that as a result of extensive Rural Electrification Programme and its unremunerative nature, their inflow of funds is far less than the outflow of resources.

Slippage of Power Projects from Eighth Plan

1360. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been slippage of power projects from Eighth plan;

(b) if so, the total number of projects, thermal or hydel and how much power these projects were supposed to generate;

(c) whether funds have been allocated in the Ninth Plan for such slipped projects of Eighth plan as also for Ninth Plan projects; and

(d) if so, the financial outlay in the central and state sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 26 Thermal and 47 hydro projects planned for commissioning during the Eighth Plan have slipped. They were expected to add 14390 MW during the 8th Plan.

(c) and (d) The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997—2002) for power sector is under finalisation in Planning Commission.

Power surplus States in country

1361. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States, regions which are reportedly powers surplus in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government intend to take these states as role model for generating power on a huge scale on a priority basis, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) At present, only Eastern Region has surplus power during off-peak period. In the Eastern Region, West Bengal and Orissa have a surplus power during off-peak period. In order to optimise the generation capacity, steps have already been taken to establish transmission links for transfer of 100 MW power to Assam (North Eastern Region), 150 MW power to Andhra Pradesh (Southern Region) and 250 MW power to Western Region. As a result, from Eastern Region, 500 MW power is being transferred to power deficit states.

In the North and North Eastern Regions there is a surplus of power in the State of Himachal Pradesh and Meghalaya respectively. The surplus power is utilised within the region by

allocation to deficit states in accordance with the directions issued by the respective Regional Electricity Boards from time to time.

Counter guarantee for fast track power projects

1362. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose extension of limited counter guarantees for a few more power projects, apart from the in-principle counter guarantees extended to the eight fast track power projects;

(b) if so, the eligibility criteria proposed for such limited counter guarantees; and

(c) the likely date from which such counter guarantees will be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Development of Alternative to X-Rays

1363. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists at the National Physical Laboratory have developed alternative to X-rays;

(b) if so, the salient features of this discovery; and

(c) how will this benefit the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) scientists at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) have not developed any alernative to X-rays.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Research and Development under New Economic Regime

1364. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the press report dated 4th June, 1997 with the caption "R&D lags under the new economic regimes" appeared in the Hindu;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) since under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) dispension, issues relating to intellectual property rights (IPRs) are crucial to safe-guard national interests, whether CSIR laboratories have undertaken annual reviews of the intellectual property that had been licensed;

(d) whether CSIR has any mechanism to monitor transfer of technology and feedback from the end users; and

(e) what concrete steps Government propose to take for improvement of the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) There has been a marginal decline in official estimates of R&D expenditure which refer to expenditure of R&D units registered with Department of Scientific & Industrial Research and expenditure incurred by Central and State